

Contractor Questions RFQ-RT-03-00039 dated 12/11/02

Q1.

Would EPA consider substituting the marine amphipod *Leptocheirus plumulosus* for *Ampelisca abdita* due to the following considerations;

a) *L. plumulosus* can be laboratory cultured whereas *A. abdita* can not. Given the relatively large number of samples (50-2000) and short receiving time (August-September) it will be important to have a known and stable source of organisms, which a laboratory culture can provide. The field collection of thousands or even tens of thousands of organisms to support 50-2000 toxicity tests would be very difficult.

A1.

We are unable to change the test organism for these studies at this time. Due to the large data base we currently have on *A. abdita* the program wishes to maintain that consistency. A different test organism may be selected for future studies.

Q2.

Does EPA require that the QA/QC protocol be submitted with the quotation or prior to analysis? The RFQ appears to contradict this requirement.

A2.

We would like a copy of their QAPP, and/or a document stating full acceptance of the NCA QAPP, submitted with any quotation.

Q3.

Under the evaluation criteria listed, what do the initials or acronym CLIN stand for in number 4?

A3.

Contract Line Item Number

Q4.

These toxicity tests do not require a great deal of sediment. Is it safe to assume that the analysis laboratory will receive approximately 1 liter of sample? We are concerned with the storage of this many samples.

A4.

We routinely provide 3 liters of sediment from each station in order to accommodate repeat analyses. *A. abdita* can be a tricky test organism and we wish to maximize the ability to conduct a successful test.